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Letter dated 9 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 6 February 2006 from Abdullah Abdullah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, to the Secretary-General, in reference to the outcome of the international London Conference on Afghanistan, held from 31 January to 1 February 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ravan A. G. **Fârhadi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 6 February 2006 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the contribution made by the United Nations in delivering security and stability in Afghanistan through the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. I welcome the successful conclusion of the Bonn process which helped Afghanistan and created the conditions for the holding of presidential elections in October 2004 and parliamentary and provincial elections in September 2005. Despite difficult security conditions, the people of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and the international community, were able to express their democratic wishes and to elect a legitimate Government with a popular mandate for peace and development.

I should like to express my Government's deep appreciation for the international community's continued support for Afghanistan. With the successful completion of the Bonn process, a new phase of international engagement was marked by the London Conference on Afghanistan, held from 31 January to 1 February 2006, and by agreement on the Afghanistan Compact. I am grateful to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for hosting the Conference, and to you for your personal involvement. The Conference was attended by over 60 delegations and saw a renewed commitment by the international community to Afghanistan's reconstruction and development, and a clear endorsement of the principle of increasing Afghan ownership of the process. The Afghanistan Compact, endorsed by the Conference, sets clear benchmarks and timelines for progress in key development sectors. These are challenging targets, but I believe they are achievable and will make a great difference to the lives of ordinary Afghans. I welcome the fact that the United Nations will play a leading role in the new Coordination and Monitoring Board, which aims to ensure more coherent effort on the part of the international community and the Government of Afghanistan. I would like to express the profound appreciation of my Government to your outgoing Special Representative for Afghanistan, Jean Arnault, for his untiring efforts to assist Afghanistan. I look forward to working with your new Special Representative, Tom Koenigs, and his team.

The International Security Assistance Force, led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since August 2003, has played a vital role in improving security through its phased expansion across the north and west of Afghanistan, and supported Afghan security forces during the elections. We look forward to the expansion of the Force to the south and east, and in this context wish to thank the Governments of Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for their contributions to the next phase. We welcome the continued operations of the Force in Afghanistan until our own security forces are able to take on the full responsibility of providing security to the nation.

I hope that the Security Council might reflect in its resolutions the continuing importance of international support for Afghanistan's reconstruction, and the significance in this context of the Afghanistan Compact.

(*Signed*) Abdullah **Abdullah**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan